



## CSCR 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:  
Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution  
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## SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

This report encompasses the Centre for Sustainable Conflict Resolution's (CSCR) – Peace Center activities that have taken place in the year 2017. CSCR and Peace Center will hereafter be used interchangeably. The activities ranged from forums and seminars, outreach programmes, partnership meetings, youth competition, mainstream media activities, and research. The Center was invited to the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum titled *Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action*, Panama City, Panama which took place from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The discussions were on the ills faced by children from human trafficking, sex abuse, Gang related violence, organized crimes to violent extremism. The forum concluded with commitments taken by the participants known as Panama Declarations aimed at protecting children from all forms of violence.

The Center in conjunction with Horn International Institute for International Affairs carried out study on women and girls' attitude towards violent extremism. The study was titled "Mapping Dynamics and Perceptions of Violent Extremism: A Study of Nature, Drivers, and Perceptions of Muslim Women and Girls Towards Violent Extremism in Kenya" (MDPVE). The study concluded within a period of five months, October 2016 to February 2017, and was launched in June 2017.

The Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR) was invited to various conferences to share their experiences with other practitioners in the field of PCVE. The East Africa Civil Society Organizations Hub organized by the Global Center on Cooperative Security in conjunction with IGAD invited CSCR on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May in a forum held at IGAD Center of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE), Djibouti, which aimed to explore how complementary initiatives can strengthen capacities and support information sharing among CSOs engaged in P/CVE in the Horn of Africa. CSCR was also engaged in a conference in Minna, Niger State, Nigeria on the 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July to share with Nigerian Muslim scholars and professionals the counter narrative developed in the Horn of Africa. This conference sponsored by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) aimed at reviewing the drafts developed by the Nigerian scholars in order to come up with a draft of alternative narratives to counter the Boko Haram narratives. The other conference was on amplifying the voices of Young African Leaders in the fight against radicalization and violent extremism organized by IGAD which took place from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the Chamber of Commerce in Djibouti. CSCR experts were among the facilitators who assisted the participants in the development of counter messaging and use of the media. The Peace Centre participated in the regional youth forum themed, 'Youth in Action: Building Positive Inter and Intra-group Relations' in Addis Ababa on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and subsequently in Sagana, Kenya from 14<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November organized by Arigatou International, Nairobi. The overall objective was to realize peaceful coexistence among communities and social groups in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa region. A validation workshop on the CVE material organized by the National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June in which CSCR was invited. The study of recruitment methods by the violent extremists and findings on social liberties facing mosques in the coast of Kenya were presented. CSCR/BRAVE discussed the impact of terrorism in the tourism sector, and de-radicalization process.

In the outreach programme and awareness creation, Peace Center initiated a conversation for the terrorism through short film competition named *Lenga Ugaidina Talanta* for the youth. This activity that took place between May and July 2017 was realized through collaboration of CSCR/BRAVE, Lenga Ugaidi na Talalnta, Nailab and Nuvision. In the outreach CSCR also mobilized Muslim professionals in October 2017 to deliberate on the political crisis facing the country at the time. They subsequently issued a press release on the same stating the Muslim professionals' position in the matter and advising the political leaders from the opposition and the ruling parties to amicably resolve the stalemate. The Peace Center also, a GNRC member Kenya, held a consultative meeting with the stakeholders in madrassa on 3<sup>rd</sup> December to deliberate on children violence in madrassa that denies many Muslim children nurturing their spirituality. Those in attendance agreed that there is need to stop violence that these children face in the spirit of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> forum held in Panama and abiding by its resolutions. CSCR through the BRAVE program also organized an interfaith activity for children at Nairobi's Kariobangi South estate to celebrate the Day of Prayer and Action for Children (DPAC). The objective was to honor the commitment to the Panama Declaration on ending violence against children and ending child poverty.

In community engagement, the Peace Center through its BRAVE programmes, in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) and United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) held community dialogue from 26<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in North Eastern, Coast, and Nairobi regions. The key objective was raising awareness on the effects of Violent Extremism (VE) and radicalization on women and youth in targeted counties, and to enlighten them on early warning signs as well as building capacity for women in preventing and countering radicalization and violent extremism.

CSCR also held various trainings and seminars. BRAVE women training of trainers (TOT) on basic counselling skills was held in November 2017. This was meant to equip BRAVE women and prepare them for disengagement and reintegrating of the returnees and establishing a pool of capable BRAVE women experts who will deal with women colleagues in preventing and countering radicalization and violent extremism. Course for Understanding Radicalization into Violent Extremism (CURVE) is a BRAVE specific Training of Trainers Course designed for CVE practitioners. One session was held in February 2017 involving Government officials where twenty participants took graduated. The Peace Center together with the HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies organized a seminar on *Familiarization of the Complexities of Violent Extremism and Radicalization in Kenya*. The key objectives was to explore the changing operational and youth recruitment tactics of al-Shabaab, the drivers of Violent Extremism and Radicalization in the Horn of Africa.

In realization of importance of partnership CSCR held meetings in September 2017 with various organization, both current and potential partners. Among them Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBIGC), Africa Youth Forum (AYT), Dr. Halkano Wario, Kenya-NiWajibu Wetu (NIWETU) and Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF). TBIGC and AYT paid courtesy calls at CSCR offices to explore possible ways of collaborations. The two organizations shared information on their operation and programmes that they have implemented. TBIGC which works mainly in three areas of Supporting governments to deliver effectively for their people, working for peace in the Middle East and Countering Violent Extremism wanted to identify partners to work with in the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa

region. Dr. Halkano Wario, a researcher with Volkswagen Foundation, had expressed intent to collaborate with CSCR so that he can study its implementation of CVE through BRAVE especially its 'Jihad for all' campaign. He paid a visit to CSCR to discuss final draft of MoU and later signed it during a subsequent meeting. The Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR) met NIWETU and GCERF in a due diligence meeting where the former had applied for funding. The two organizations paid visits to CSCR secretariat for the exercise.

CSCR's Board meeting was held on in October 2017 to discuss programme of the Center. This included all CSCR activities and programmes including trainings, seminars, awareness campaigns and the financial position of the organization since the previous board meeting held.

The social media campaign, *Jihad for All* and later *Be Brave* page had a substantial number of followers. There was a lot of conversation and activity going on in the BRAVE WhatsApp groups. BRAVE with a total of ten WhatsApp groups had frequent updates on activities such as info graphics which were received thrice a week, pictures of BRAVE'S recent activities and not forgetting the BRAVE newsletters. Dr. Mustafa Ali participated in an interviewed with CGTN on behalf of CSCR, on radicalization and violent extremism. He also appeared on NTV to represent BRAVE and CSCR on a breakfast show, standing on Guard, discussing security situation with regard to the threat of violent extremism in Kenya. Subsequently, he also took part in an interview along with Sh. Ramadhan Aula, Sh. Ibrahim Lethome and Dr. Hassan Khannenje with the Media Capital on a documentary they were making.



## FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

### Course to Understand Radicalization into Violent Extremism held in February 2017

#### Introduction

In order to stop the recruitment drive of the Al Shabaab targeting members of the community and spreading fear and intimidation among the Muslim clerics by killing the moderates among them in the North Eastern, Upper Eastern, Nairobi and Coast Regions of Kenya, the Course to Understand Radicalization into Violent Extremism (abbreviated as CURVE) Training of Trainers on was held from 21<sup>st</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. A total of 30 leaders; government officials and community mobilizers were trained on skills of preventing and countering radicalization into Violent Extremism. The objectives of the course were:

- To create a pool of trainers with a deep, wide and comprehensive grasp and understanding of preventing and countering violent extremism (CVE)

- Impart CVE pedagogical skills to the course participants
- Expose the course participants to Islamic Institutions and Muslim places of worship for familiarization with life experience with Mosque, Madrassa and Interactions with Muslim religious leaders

### **Presentations:**

A number of presentations were made and the modules covered included:

Module One: Concept of Radicalization, Extremism, Violent Extremism and Terrorism and other related terms. Participants were introduced to Radicalization, Extremism, Violent Extremism and terrorism, Key counter violent Extremism concepts and terminologies and were also familiarized on the misused Counter Violent and Extremism Islamic concepts and terminologies.

Module Two was about the History Overview and Psychology of Violent Extremism. Module Three covered Typology of Terrorism and Lone Wolves participants in order to enhance the understanding the typologies, recruitment strategies and ideologies, typology of terrorism and lone wolves and the radicalization process into violent extremism.

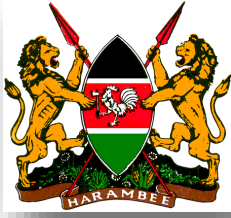
In Module Four, Drivers of Radicalization into Violent Extremism and Terrorism, participants looked at the drivers of radicalization into Violent Extremism, Violent Extremism Narratives and counter narratives to their narratives and the indicators of Violent Extremism.

Module Five covered Identification of a Radicalized Individual- Early Warning Signs (EWARVE), and the participants were taught the early warning signs of a radicalized individual and also visited the religious sites.

Module Six covered Building Community Resilience through Participatory Learning Approaches participants were taught community prevention of Violent Extremism and the UN Resolutions against Violent Extremism.

Module Seven, Eight, Nine and Ten, tackled the Effects Communication for PEV/CVE Planning and Organizing of Training Programmes, Introduction to Training and Techniques Preventive Strategies of Radicalization, Extremism and Violent Extremism.

In conclusion, majority of the participants responded positively to the training and asked to be given more trainings and time in the near future.



## The Project Management Board Meeting Held On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017, At Nctc Board Room

Sh. Ramadhan Aula represented CSCR in the Project management Board Meeting to discuss the project named Strengthening Community Resilience against Radicalization and Violent Extremism. The aim of the meeting was to deliberate on proposed work plan of Jan – March 2017 and funding modalities of funds transfer to implementing partners.

### 1. The 2017 Annual Work Plan

The proposed AWP for the period Jan-March 2017 was presented to the members and discussed the following outputs for the project:

Project output 1: Robust CVE Prevention and Awareness Creation undertaken.

Project Output 2: Support for rehabilitation of returnees and reformed victims of violent extremism.

Project Output 3: Supported Research for Evidence based programming Policy.

The meeting was informed that the activities under Output 2 could not be implemented due to challenges faced in the pilot government sponsored rehabilitation program implemented in Coastal region. The government, therefore, will focus on putting in place legal, policy and regulatory framework to support the engagement with the returnees. Based on the above, it was proposed and adopted that that activities under Output 2 be revised to be aligned to new government priorities.

The following proposed activities were presented as substitute activities for Output 2:

- i. Support for reach out interventions targeting returnees, returnee families through capacity building for counselors and psychologists
- ii. Support for development of guidelines and curriculum for counselling and psychosocial support for rehabilitation of reformed returnees
- iii. Support for CVE Capacity Building for local Religious Leaders in Targeted Counties
- iv. Support for equipping one rehabilitation facility for reformed returnees in Mombasa County
- v. Support for establishing of Income Generating Projects for communities affected by violent extremism

### 2. Funding Mechanism for Implementing Partners

The meeting took cognizance of institutional challenges which hampered transfer of funds to project responsible parties. UNDP Country Director informed the meeting that the legal and financial accountability of the projects vest with NCTC as the Implementing Partner but it is possible for UNDP to transfer funds to Responsible Parties, based on the individual organization's risk rating, on request by the NCTC but NCTC remains legally responsible for results and financial accountability.

Following discussions, the board resolved that in order to expedite delivery of project results, the NCTC will enter into an agreement with UNDP to facilitate transfer of funds to the responsible parties using applicable UNDP modality as per individual organization risk rating.

## APRIL MAY JUNE AND JULY

### 1. Brave Steering Committee Meeting April 2017th

BRAVE Steering Committee convened in April 2017 to look into the movement's annual report. It was agreed that 2016 has not been a very busy year for the organization but the impact has been felt through the previous year's activities. This was confirmed by activities of the beneficiaries of ToTs held around the country. The said beneficiaries held activities in Coast, Nyanza, Western and Upper Eastern regions of Kenya. These ranged from youth camps training of Imams and participation in other efforts on countering Violent Extremism. The Committee discussed strategies to make BRAVE more active and mobilize more resources.



*A section of participants being trained by BRAVE ToT in Bungoma*

In the same period, the work of development of HORN Institute continued. The Website was improved and was more informative by adding weekly newsletter and improving the experts section.

## 2. GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum: Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action, Panama City, Panama 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017

CSCR attended a forum organized by Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC). Every five years, Arigatou International holds a Forum of its Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) initiative. The 5<sup>th</sup> Forum has taken place on 9, 10 and 11 May 2017 in Panama City, Panama. Five-hundred religious leaders, members of diverse faith communities, leaders of faith-based organizations, United Nations officials, and representatives of international and grassroots organizations from around the world have attended the Forum. A pre-Forum bringing together 60 children preceded the forum and took place from 6, 7, and 8 May 2017. The theme for the 5<sup>th</sup> Forum was *Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action*. Sh. Ramadhan Aula represented the organization.



The focus of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum was on three key thematic areas:

1. Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime: The Role of Faith Communities
2. Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing: The Role of Faith Communities
3. Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children: The Role of Faith Communities



### 3. East Africa Civil Society Organizations Hub 16-17 May 2017, Djibouti City, Djibouti



The Global Centre invited different organizations from the IGAD region notably; Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, Zanzibar and Tanzania. Among the invited organizations from Kenya was the Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR). Sh. Ramadhan Aula and Sh. Ibrahim Lethome represented CSCR. The workshop was held at the IGAD Center of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) in Djibouti.

The aim of this workshop was to explore how the complementary initiatives can strengthen capacities and support information sharing among CSOs engaged in P/CVE in the Horn of Africa. This included examining areas and methods of proposed collaboration, as well as mechanisms for CSO representation with the ICEPCVE, national governments, and other regional and international bodies.



*A section of participants following the proceedings*

The CSO Hub partners with IGAD and its Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE), and collaborates with key national, regional, and international actors to achieve the shared objective of preventing and countering violent extremism in the Eastern and Horn of Africa region. The CSO Hub is facilitated by the Global Center on

Cooperative Security (Global Center) with initial support from the Government of the Netherlands.

#### **4. Validation of P/CVE Material Developed By NCTC Held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017 at the Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi**

CSCR was represented by Ian Mwenda in a validation workshop at Silver Springs Hotel Nairobi, convened by NCTC in collaboration with UNDP. The objective of the workshop was to validate CVE material commissioned by NCTC, mainly:

##### **i) Understanding Radicalization and Recruitment Methods in Kenya. By Ms. Hawa Noor.**

The presentation covered Central Kenya, Western Kenya and Rift valley. The findings were as follows:

- i) High level of illiteracy leads to radicalization.
- ii) Few opportunities for the surging youth population. Informal repression, and militia that might be holding bays for violent extremism networks, continue to give power to narratives that enable radicalization. This in turn could lead to recruitment into violent extremism in the researched areas.
- iii) Injustice and stigmatization towards the Muslim community in the three provinces are factors of radicalization that might enhance recruitment to violent extremism.
- iv) Interfaith and intercultural intolerance is happening at various levels of society. It is worse in schools, where various religious groups tend to impose their practices upon other groups.
- v) The poorly regulated education system offers the potential for manipulation by various actors, including violent extremists. The lack of clarity in concepts such as radicalization, and violent extremism inhibit real issues from being tackled.
- vi) Various intra-Muslim community conflicts, such as struggles for leadership, exist in the three regions but are not directly related to violent extremism.

##### **ii) A Rapid Assessment of the Prospects and Challenges of Democracy and Social Liberties facing Mosques in the Coastal Counties of Kwale, Kilifi, Mombasa and Lamu. By Prof. Hassan Mwakimako.**

The presentation entailed a research survey on the place of the Mosque as an important institution in the lives of Muslims in Kenya and the world at large. The survey recognized that Mosques are not just 'places of prayers' but a 'community place', where in most cases, the lives of Muslims revolves around Mosque activities. The research identified how Mosques are effective institutions in countering radicalization and violent extremism. It identified challenges facing Mosque institutions in understanding and articulating issues of good governance, democracy, peace and co-existence. In addition, the survey findings show that activities leading to positive engagements of youth with Mosque structures of leadership and ways to position Mosque officials and youth in particular as champions, partners and ambassadors against radicalization, violence and

extremism. This is very relevant with what BRAVE is doing since help the organization building up better strategies to counter violent extremism.

#### **5. Strengthening Community Resilience Against Radicalization and Violent Extremism Workshop Held on 28<sup>th</sup> June at The University Of Nairobi**

CSCR attended a symposium organized by Africa Policy Institute at the University of Nairobi Old Chambers on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The theme of the meeting was *Strengthening Community Resilience against Radicalization and Violent Extremism*. In attendance was Defense Cabinet Secretary Rachel Omamo, University of Nairobi V.C Prof Mbithi, Africa Policy Institute founder Prof Kagwanja, Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies director Prof Maria Nzomo, National Counter Terrorism Agency Director Dr. Kimani, Head of Anti-Terror Police Unit (ATPU) Mr Munga, rep from Interior ministry, rep from Inspector General Office among many others. The research was carried out in nine counties in Kenya that are mostly affected by terrorism and violent extremism.

#### **6. Strengthening Community Resilience against Radicalization and Violent Extremism Activity Report, June 2017**

This report presents the proceedings of *Strengthening community's resilience against Radicalization and Violent Extremism* programmatic activities that took place in Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Tana River and Nairobi. This programme was led and coordinated by the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), in conjunction with UNDP and was implemented by CSCR through the BRAVE programme. The key objective of these community awareness outreach meetings was to raise awareness on the effects of Violent Extremism (VE) and radicalization on women and youth in targeted counties and to enlighten them on early warning signs. The topics discussed bordered on the roles of women and youth in countering violent extremism; understanding radicalization and violent extremism; early warning signs of radicalization and violent extremism and community resilience strategy against radicalization and violent extremism. The participants brought to the meetings their own intuitions as well as experiences regarding violent extremism and radicalization, which were bolstered by qualified and experienced facilitators; Dr. Othman Mujahid and Sh. Ibrahim Lethome. The meetings yielded an array of sentiments that ranged from facts to misperceptions with regards to violent extremism and radicalization in their respective areas which gave valuable insights into the knowledge level and awareness of the community members in the topics selected.

#### **Objectives**

To address the above problem, the Government of Kenya and UNDP partnered to implement a programme titled *Strengthening community's resilience against Radicalization and Violent Extremism* in Kenya. The programme was led and coordinated by the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), and other partners. As partners of NCTC, the Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR/BRAVE) carried out community sensitization in five counties which included Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Tana Raver and Nairobi as part of the larger programme that took place in most of hotspots of in the country. These community sensitization activities took place at venues that were carefully selected to ensure that the grassroots people were reached.

### Timeframe, Venue of the Meetings and Profile of Participants

The meetings took place between May 2017 and June 2017 in Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Tana River and Nairobi. Participants were mobilized through BRAVE programme which had already established networks from previous programmes in these regions. The participants were mainly the youth and women. A total 300 women and 250 youth took part in these activities. Table 1 below provides a summary of the participants, their profile and locations:

|   | NAME         | Region        | Target Group    | Number of people reached |
|---|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Nairobi      | Nairobi       | Women           | 62                       |
| 2 | Wajir        | North Eastern | Women and Youth | 120                      |
| 3 | Mandera      | North Eastern | Women and Youth | 120                      |
| 4 | Garissa      | North Eastern | Women and Youth | 120                      |
| 5 | Tana River   | Coast         | Women and Youth | 120                      |
|   | <b>Total</b> |               |                 | <b>542</b>               |

### 7. The Launch of Mapping Perceptions on Violent Extremism: A Study of Muslim Women and Girls Attitude Towards Extremists Groups and Violent Extremism



The launch of *Mapping Dynamics and Perceptions of Violent Extremism: A Study of Nature, Drivers and Perception of Muslim Women and Girls towards Violent Extremism in Kenya* survey report organized by both the HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies and affiliate organization CSCR took place on 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 at the HORN Institute premises. The audience comprised of people from security, media, and development partners. The survey report is about the place and role of women in radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism whose main objective is to examine the nature and dynamics of Muslim women and girl's involvement in violent extremism.

The purpose of this event was to impact people on the importance of concentrating on women in preventing and countering violent extremism as opposed to just concentrating on men. The event began at 10a.m with a word of prayer from Sh. Ibrahim Lethome followed by opening remarks from Dr. Mustafa Ali, who gave a brief on how the survey was conducted and how important it is. He also introduced the HORN Institute as a research institute on policy matters which has five centers; i.e. 1. Center for Defense and Security, 2. Center for the Study of Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization, 3. Center for Governance, Statecraft and Conflict Resolution, 4. Center for Transnational Crime and Strategic Threats, 5. Center for Diplomacy Foreign Relation. In his introduction Dr. Ali said that the survey was carried in partnership with the Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR) and non-Governmental Organization that hosts Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism (BRAVE) programme.

#### 8. *Lenga Ugaidi Na Talanta* Competition Winner's Gala Held On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017 At The Norfolk Hotel



*Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali giving prize to the second runner up in the Lenga Ugaidi na Talanta Competition*

Radicalisation of youth and subsequent recruitment by Violent Extremists Organizations (VEOs) is not new in Kenya. Al-Shabaab, the foremost VEO in the Horn of Africa has killed many people in the region, caused a lot of suffering and pain. In Kenya, the youth, irrespective of their religious affiliation and ethnic background, have been approached by al-Shabaab and ISIS recruiters who capitalise on their social, economic and political susceptibility to lure them into joining these groups. The current wave of radicalisation in Kenya is a great concern vis a vis the security in the country. Indeed, if the extremist ideologies are to be starved of recruits (especially the youth), more support is required for the youth through various activities targeting them and vocational trainings.

In accord with its mission and objectives, the Centre for Sustainable Conflict Resolution/BRAVE in partnership with *Epuka Ugaidi*, *Nuvision* and *Nailab* came up with the competition dubbed *Lenga Ugaidi Na Talanta*. The competition sought to promote fight against al-Shabaab and other VEOs through film and storytelling. The organizations invited youth to take part in the competition guided by three broad themes: youth responsibility in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), the changing face of terrorism and faith based institutions and communities.

This competition focused on the youth under the age of 35 years. Participants were supposed to create short films/clips of not more than five minutes focusing on the highlighted themes. The films or clips would then be forwarded to CSCR/BRAVE offices or sent via email. The competition ran from May to June, 2017.

The objectives of the project are as follows:

- Allow the youth to spearhead the counter-radicalization conversation through talent/art in their own language and understanding, thus allow greater receptivity
- Engage the youth actively in the fight against radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism as it has been traditionally by the Government, NGO's and Religious institutions
- Create awareness and initiate continuous conversation by the youth on Al Shabaab recruitment

## 9. Review of Contents and Approaches in Responding To Extremists' Narratives Conference Held in Minna, Niger State From 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 To 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017



### 1.1 Introduction

Nigeria has suffered insurgency from violent extremist group Boko Haram, just like Kenya from al-shabaab. The group has committed suicide attacks on soft targets especially in public places including villages, on travelers, places of worship, and Government installations. In view of this, Nigerian Muslim scholars and professionals are trying to counter Boko Haram through alternative narratives. These scholars and professionals were sponsored by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) to develop a draft on alternative narratives to be used for this purpose.

To make it effective, The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) invited Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism (BRAVE) and Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR), to a conference in Minna, Nigeria to review the draft documents on counter narratives of Boko Haram. BRAVE was represented by Sh. Ramadhan Aula, who is also the director, CSCR, Sh. Ibrahim Lethome, Chairman, BRAVE Reference Committee, and Dr. Othman Mujahid, BRAVE Senior Consultant. The conference was held for five days; from 24<sup>th</sup> July to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Two drafts were tabled; *Moderation in Dialogue: An Alternative Narrative from Borno* by scholars from Maiduguri and *A Critical Discourse of BH's Ideology: Narratives and References* by Cordoba Foundation.

### 1.2. Major Themes discussed

The main themes discussed in the conference were:

- 1) “Shari’ah Intelligence” - Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence and Islamic Legal Theory (*Usul al-Fiqh*) and the methods of *ijtihad* that lead to the construction of Fatwa.
- 2) Islamic legal philosophy and maxims (*al-Qawa’id al-Fiqhiyyah*) that fatwas are based on and approaches in handling diversity among scholars.
- 3) The use of *seerah* (Prophet Muhammad’s biography) in countering the narratives of violent extremists.
- 4) Overview and review of *The Challenge of Extremism to Peace-Building and Interfaith Relations among Muslims (al-Wala wa al-Bara’ wa al-Birr wa al-Qist)* draft.
- 5) Overview and review of *A Critical Discourse of BH’s Ideology* draft. *Participants follow proceedings during the conference*
- 6) The use of media in countering violent extremism

## 2.1 Presentation of Sharia Intelligence

Day one of the conference was dedicated to explaining the philosophy of sharia intelligence and Islamic law as a basis of making *ijtihad* (independent Islamic legal reasoning), and consequently deducing fatwa. This is a major area that violent extremists do not comprehend well or calculatingly disregard it for their selfish interests.

## 2.2 Counter Narratives through *Seerah*

In day two of the conference, the participants discussed the counter-narratives using *seerah*. *Seerah* is a biography of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) which the participants agreed was full of corroborating evidence that the Prophet lived with non-Muslims in Madina, the treaty of Hudaibiyya employing non-Muslims to teach Muslims reading and writing are some of the examples that are a clear evidence that the Prophet did not perform jihad for killing the non-Muslims merely on the variance of religion.



*A section of the participants in the Minna Conference*

## 2.3 CVE Lessons between Nigeria and Kenya

Day three was set aside for comparative analysis and sharing of experiences on counter narratives used in Kenya and Nigeria. The BRAVE delegation made a presentation on the work done in Kenya in countering violent extremist narratives using BRAVE work as a case study. Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome gave a brief overview of BRAVE, detailing the reasons why it was formed as well as the founders.



Sh. Ramadhan Aula showcased the work of BRAVE from inception and the network used for implementation of its programmatic activities. He explained how the Master Narrative Toolkit (MANSKIT) was developed and how it works displaying some of the video clips that were used in the media campaigns. He also explicated the techniques used to make the social media campaign successful.



*Dr. Othman Mujahid (left) and Sh. Ramadhan Aula (right) pose for a photo*

Dr. Mujahid concluded by explaining how the MANSKIT works for the trainers and how the trainers must be prepared for this humongous work by applying the A-Z strategy. He also highlighted some of the challenges encountered in the CVE activities. They included collaborators threatening to pull out, constant complaints of disappearance of youth (sometimes to join al-shabaab) and unavailability of funds that would allow BRAVE to continue its campaign

as planned especially the media campaign.

### *iii) Review of the Drafts on Counter Narratives of Boko Haram Narratives*



*Sh. Ibrahim Lethome making his contribution*

There were two draft documents on alternative narratives to be reviewed in the five day conference: *Moderation in Dialogue: An Alternative Narrative from Borno* by scholars from Maiduguri and *A Critical Discourse of BH's Ideology: Narratives and References* by Cordoba Foundation.

### 2.3.1 Discussion of Moderation in Dialogue: An Alternative Narrative from Borno

The Maiduguri scholars, represented by Prof. Adam Muhammad Ajiri, presented their draft on narratives and counter narratives in the afternoon of day four. Participants were expected to furnish the discussions with comments since part of the agenda of the forum was to review and critique the documents. The document stated the meaning of Boko Haram (in Hausa) as the prohibition of Western education and lifestyle. Boko Haram is not the *actual* name of the insurgent group but they are popularly known by this name because they violently opposed anybody attending school. They cited that western education is a systematic conversion to Christianity. Boko Haram consider people who take part in this education as *kafir*. The real name of this group is “*Jama’at Ahlus Sunnah Lid Da’wah wal Jihad*” (the Group of People of Sunnah for Proselytization and Jihad). The speakers also gave an elaborate history of the development of Boko Haram before explaining the different narratives used



Prof. Adam Muhammad Ajiri listening keenly

by the insurgent group and countering them. The document is structured into eleven modules for coherence and flow. The discussion spilled over to Day Four of the conference.

### 2.3.2 A Critical Discourse of BH’s Ideology: Narratives and References by Cordoba Foundation

On day four, participants continued reviewing the Borno scholars’ document since it was not completed the previous day. Dr. Audu Bulama Bukarti a representative from Cordoba Foundation presented their draft *A Critical Discourse of BH’s Ideology, Narratives and References*. The document was divided into five themes. Theme one: *Takfir*, theme two: Jihad in Islam, theme three: Conventional Education, theme four: Democracy, theme five: Civil Service under Secular Government. Since the arguments in this



Dr. Audu Bukarti Bulama making a point

draft were not very far off from the previous document it was concluded by the end of day four.

### **3.0 The Role of the Media in CVE**

Day five was set aside to discuss the contribution of media in CVE. Experts in media from Universities, media practitioners and representatives of Switzerland embassy joined in this day.

BRAVE once again was requested to present its media strategy for the benefit of the new comers. BRAVE took advantage of the 30 minutes given to them to present the media work to the audience. Surprisingly, despite the fact that the audience did not understand Kiswahili but were all moved by the *jihadi yangu* clip. They applauded the presentation and promised to emulate what was done by BRAVE.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

*Jama't Ahlus Sunnah lid Da'wah wal Jihad*, popularly known as Boko Haram, use *takfir* mainly to justify their insidious indiscriminate killing in Nigeria and in the neighbouring countries of Mali Cameroon and Chad. Their recruitment methods range from persuasion through misinterpretation of religious narratives to forceful enlisting through kidnappings. It was apparent that the community needs to develop strong strategies to combat this problem. It will also take concerted efforts of scholars, CVE practitioners, NGO, Government, and the community to defeat the insurgency of violent extremists.



Kenya NiWajibu Wetu  
NIWETU

30<sup>th</sup> August 2017

|                               |   |                  |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Sh. Ramadhan Aula             | - | Director, CSCR   |
| Saeed Hussein                 | - | Accountant, CSCR |
| Joyce Mwayi (Finance Manager) | - | NIWETU           |
| Lilian Lamai (Grants Manager) | - | NIWETU           |
| Hamisi Abdalla                | - | NIWETU           |
| Barbara (Accountant)          | - | NIWETU           |

### Introduction

NiWajibu Wetu (NIWETU) activity was launched by the U.S. Agency for International Development to reduce violent extremism among at-risk individuals and communities in Kenya. “NiWajibu Wetu” is a Kiswahili phrase meaning, “It’s our responsibility,” and is inspired by verse two of the Kenya National Anthem and the 2010 Constitution of Kenya. The activity empowers communities and government institutions to take the lead in preventing/countering violent extremism (P/CVE). NIWETU works to address the root causes of violent extremism by fostering a sense of unity and tolerance among individuals, communities, civil society groups, as well as catalyze their connections with government institutions at the county and national levels.

The visit was initiated to establish financial eligibility and reference checking processes. The processes were led by Joyce Mwayi (Finance Manager) and Lilian Lamai (Grants Manager). There was a checklist to go through this process. They further requested for five references (name, phone number, email contact, short bullet point outlining the relationship) that can speak to vis a vis BRAVE’s past activities.

## Fixed Amount Award Eligibility Checklist

The NIWETU representatives guided the meeting on the checklist of Fixed Amount Award Eligibility as the CSCR officers provided the necessary answers as follows:

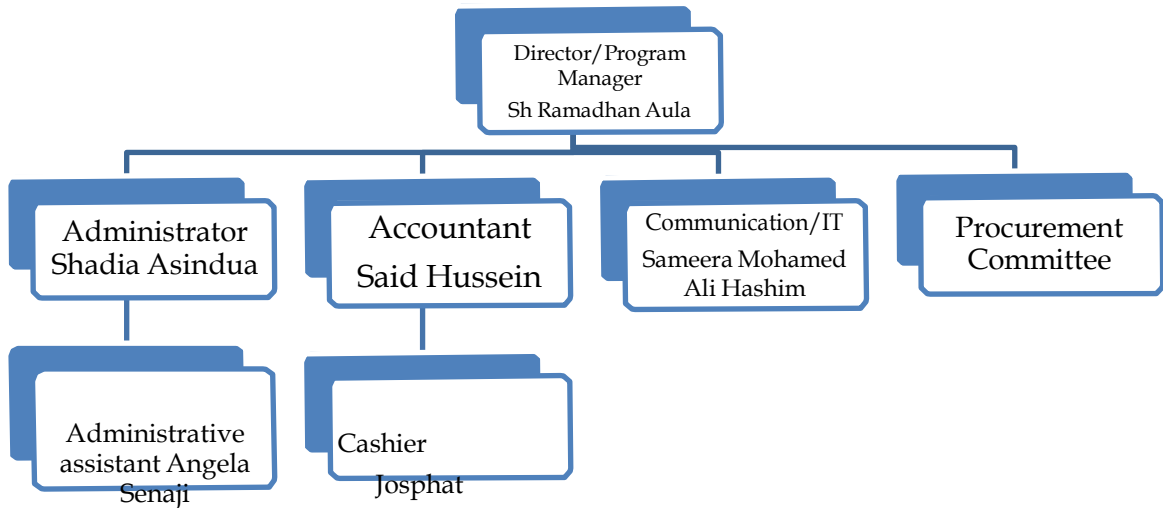
### Section A: Entity Eligibility

#### 1. Organizational Integrity

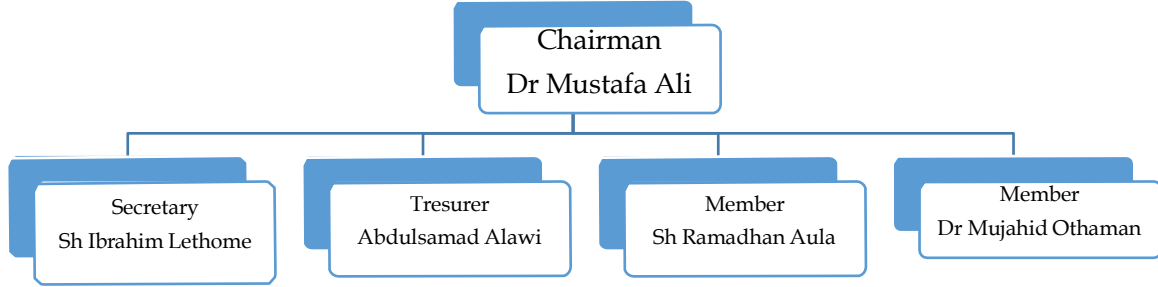
1. Obtained a copy of Articles of Incorporation or other documentation which substantiates the legal character/registration of the entity in country/region of operation. Presented Registration Certificate and PIN registration card
2. Identify principals/key personnel/organization structure

### Section B: Organizational Chart

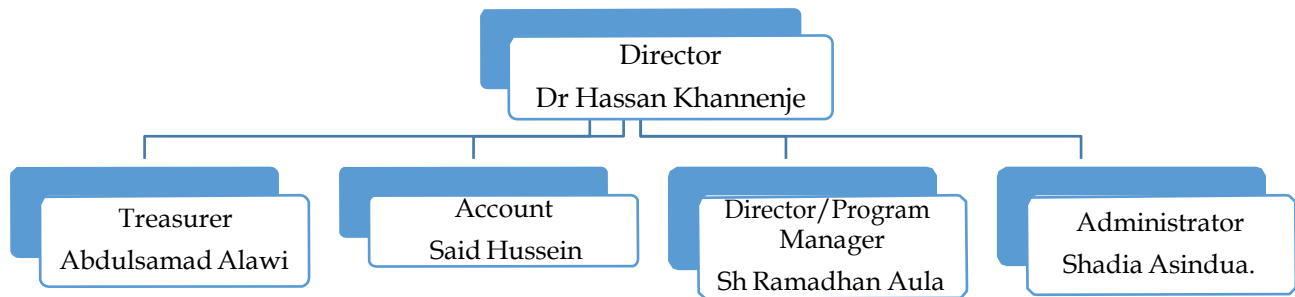
#### 1. Administration



## 2. Board



## 3. Procurement Committee



## 4. DUNS number (over \$25,000): NUMBER

Joyce sent a link for application of the DUNS number. This is a registration number applied by individual organization recognized by American funding organizations. Activities of an organization are stored in a site and will be accessed through this number

## 5. Vet the Organization/Principals to Validate Good Standing

- a. SAM search: there is a link for this search to ensure that the organization is engaged in legal activities
- CSCR presented policy documents required; i.e. procurement policy, HR Policy, and Financial policy

## Section C: Organization Technical Capacity to Achieve Proposed FAA Activity

- Staff expertise/management capabilities to be utilized for activity
- Intellectual property to be applied  
MANSKIT in English and Kiswahili, and also abridged version of the document.  
MANSKIT in CDs (English, Kiswahili and the abridges version), CD of PowerPoint presentation of the MANSKIT, Video clips that are used for CVE campaigns and training
- Technology resources to be applied

Computers, Overhead projectors, phones

- Other assets available and commitments incurred to determine cash flow
- Organization possesses financial management systems for procurement and petty cash management (request documentation on internal processes from grantee).

**Section D: Past Performance in the Sector**

- Identified **similar activities**; the entity has implemented (**request references**)  
Community Dialogues, Building Community Resilience, Inter religious dialogues, ToTs, Imams Trainings, Female madrasa Teachers, Youth training, youth camps
- Obtain third party information on performance related to quality of performance, timeliness of completion, input from past funding entities and activity beneficiaries
  - Ms. Irene Tulel - UNDP Programme Officer
  - Mr. Joseph Opondo - NCTC Deputy Director

## Seminar on Familiarization of the Complexities of Violent Extremism held at the Horn Institute



(From left-right) Sh Ramadhan Aula, Dr Mustafa Y Ali and Dr Khannenje during the seminar

### Introduction

The Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR) together with affiliate organization HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies held a seminar on *Familiarization of the Complexities of Violent Extremism and Radicalization in Kenya* on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017. The purpose of this seminar was to apprise the friends of HORN Institute, religious groups, government officials, partners and CVE organizations on subtleties of Violent Extremism and Radicalization in the Horn of Africa, as well as the approaches to countering violent extremism (CVE) as employed by the HORN's affiliate Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR) in Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism (BRAVE) program. Thirty participants took part in the seminar that was held at the Horn Institute's Boardroom.

The HORN Institute is an applied research and policy think tank headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. The institute seeks to mainstream evidence based research in public policy processes. Key thematic areas include; defence and security; diplomacy and foreign relations; conflict resolution and peace-building; governance and statecraft; strategic communication, terrorism, radicalization, and religious extremism.



The seminar sought to educate participants on:



Sh. Ramadhan Aula debunking the concept of Jihad

*of Radicalization and De-Radicalization Strategies.*

i) The changing operational and youth recruitment tactics of al-Shabaab

ii) Drivers of violent extremism and radicalization in the Horn of Africa.

iii) Narratives and counter narratives of violent Extremists.

Presentations were made by Dr Mustafa Ali on the *Typologies of Terrorism*, Sh Ramadhan Aula on *Islamic Terminologies and concepts in Violent Extremism*, Sh Ibrahim Lethome on *Narratives of Countering Violent Extremism* and Dr Mujahid Othman on *Early Warning Signs*

The Seminar was held at the HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies and Dr. Hassan Kanneje, the Institute's director and the moderator, welcomed guests and gave the profiles of the presenters of the day; Dr. Mustafa Ali, Sh. Ramadhan Aula, Sh. Ibrahim Lethome, and Dr. Othman Mujahid. Thereafter, participants had self-introductions before the first presenter was invited to the floor.

## Presentations

### 1. Typology of Terrorism by Dr. Mustafa Ali

The first presenter was Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali who made a presentation on *Typology of Terrorism*. They include:

- International Terrorism
- Domestic Terrorism
- Ideological Terrorism
- Political Terrorism
- Psychotic Terrorism

After his presentation, a few questions were asked. These include:



*Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali explicating the Typologies of Terrorism*

i) Where do you place other typologies such as domestic terrorism, transnational terrorism?

ii) Are there other cases of pathological terrorism?

## 2. Islamic terminologies and concepts in violent Extremism by Sh. Ramadhan Aula

Dr. Mustafa's presentation was followed by Sh. Ramadhan Aula's presentation on *Islamic Terminologies and Concepts in Violent Extremism*. In his presentation, he explained the meanings of commonly misused Islamic/Arabic terms by Violent Extremist Groups. Examples include words like *Jihad*, *kafir*, *murtad* and *shaheed*. He also explained the Islamic guidelines and rules of war. Specifically, he delved into the concept of Jihad stating that it is a misunderstood concept from Islam and many violent extremist organizations are taking advantage of the vacuum to mete out violence. He clearly outlined the conditions for combative Jihad.

## 3. Drivers of Violent Extremism and Narratives of Countering Violent Extremism By Sh. Ibrahim Lethome

The next presentation was by Sh. Lethome on *Drivers of Violent Extremism and Narratives of Countering Violent Extremism*. He

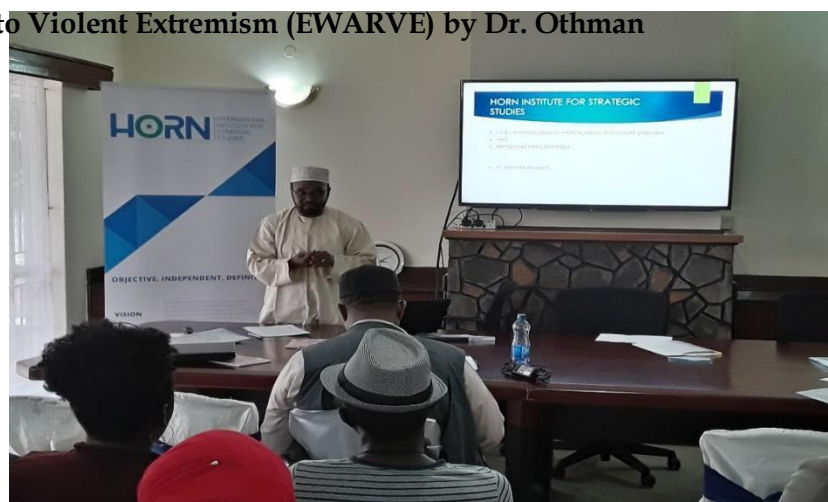


Sh. Lethome Explaining the Narratives of Countering Violent Extremism

explained the push and pull factors that drive the youth to join Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs). Some of these factors are, poverty, marginalization, historical injustices, cultural profiling, among others. In his presentation, Sh. Lethome explained the need for partnerships in the war against Violent Extremism since the driving factors are not specific to one challenge and therefore cannot be addressed by one group. He urged the universities, schools, government agencies and other security personnel to get involved in the fight against Violent Extremism and Radicalization.

## 4. Early warning signs of radicalization into Violent Extremism (EWARVE) by Dr. Othman Mujahid

In the afternoon, Dr. Othman Mujahid, made a presentation on Early Warning Signs of Radicalization into Violent Extremism. He gave a summary on some of the signs that manifest in the early stages of radicalization, transition stage and when someone is fully radicalized. He emphasized on the need for parents and the society at large to be on the lookout for some of these signs among the youth. He brought to the attention of participants that the early warning signs depend on the type of radicalization. For example, if one is being radicalized through religion, then



Dr. Othman Mujahid explaining the signs of radicalization (EWARVE)

they will show changes in matters to do with religion. His final presentation was on the strategies of de-radicalization.

## Plenary Session

During the plenary session, Dr. Mujahid expounded on the early warnings signs of radicalization. He went ahead to explain how changes take place in a radicalized person and some of the signs to look out for including; social isolation, risk-taking behavior, violent rhetoric, criminality, negative peer influence among others. He urged parents to interact with their children more often and know what is going on in their lives and give them guidance. He also explained on the need for security agencies, organizations that are involved in countering violent extremism and other partners to be more creative when dealing with issues of countering violent extremism, since most violent extremist organizations are usually a step ahead.

There was a challenge posed to all the BRAVE presenters by some of the participants when asked if it was possible for BRAVE to do a re-run of the TVCs played during the seminar on national television because they are resourceful. Sh. Ramadhan responded by saying that the BRAVE TVCs were earlier on played on national televisions. He said airing TVCs is costly but they can be aired again when BRAVE gets finances for that.

Another participant challenged the HORN Institute and BRAVE to initiate a dialogue that would contribute to addressing issues of historical injustices as one of the factors that lead to



*A section of the audience*

radicalization. One of the participants sought to understand the source of radicalization. Sh. Ramadhan responded to this question by saying that it is self-radicalization because of lack of information or having half-baked information. Additionally, he stated that in the process of internalizing what they have, they get astray. Second, there are religious leaders with bad motives unknown to their followers, so they follow him thoughtlessly. Dr. Mujahid added that research shows that 'radicalizers' are not radicalized themselves; they are doing business. Otherwise if they truly believed that is the way to go to paradise why aren't they committing

suicide to show example.

Another participant challenged BRAVE and HORN Institute to conduct a familiarization seminar for journalists reporting on security since some of the journalists misuse CVE terminologies. These security journalists keep repeating the statements that glorify terrorists which mislead the viewers. Dr. Mustafa responded by saying that indeed the terrorist groups feel that the gullible Kenyan media is one of their best supporters. He affirmed that these groups of journalists need to be sensitized on the reportage of terrorists' incidences.

The HORN Institute was requested to share the presentations with all the participants in the seminar so that they can use them to mentor other people in their places of work. It was also requested that more time should be allocated in the future trainings since the time was too short to cover all the topics adequately. It was also asked if some of the presenters can appear on mainstream media and debunk some of the ideologies and narratives which are used by the radicalizers and violent extremist groups. Sh. Ramadhan replied by saying that this was only an introduction but the whole training would normally take at least five to ten days. He also said there is need to add more voices in the media. Another participant sought to understand why Islam is the 'only' religion that is being used to perpetrate violence. Dr. Mujahid and Sh. Ramadhan answered by saying historically every century has its own type of terrorism. They said that there is no religion that has not been used to perpetrate violence. In the past, Irish Republican Army in Northern Ireland, and Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda have used Christianity to perpetrate violence, while Tamil Tiger in Sri Lanka used Hinduism to mete out violence. There is an ongoing violence in Burma and they are using Buddhism to commit what is seen as ethnic cleansing.

Another participant sought clarification on the 34 *sujud* (prostration) and whether they are done in one sitting. This was a reaction on an earlier presentation where Sh. Ramadhan explained why Muslims would have a mark on their foreheads. Sh. Ramadhan simplified it by explaining that how Muslim prayers are spread in twenty-hours and which culminate to 34 *sujud*.

## Conclusion

As a routine, the Horn International Institute for Strategic Studies has monthly activities in various topics and themes. This month (August 2017) the Institute organized this seminar through its Center for Study of Terrorism, Extremism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization on *Familiarization of the Complexities of Violent Extremism and Radicalization in Kenya*. The Center invited experts of CVE from its sister organization the Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR) to facilitate the training. The Horn Institute will work with its partner to ensure implementation of recommendations arising from the seminar. The Institute will hold a symposium on political intricacies in the next month activity.

## Recommendations

At the end of the seminar, various recommendations were made by participants:

1. BRAVE should organize training for the security journalists specifically for them to have better understanding especially on the correct use of terminologies of radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism.
2. The seminar was too short and very loaded. There was need for more time in order to comprehensively cover the topics adequately for the course to be more beneficial. Other training should be organized with sufficient time for maximum benefit
3. The consultants were asked to appear on mainstream media to debunk what the society thinks of Violent Extremism and radicalization, as well as the push and pull factors.
4. The BRAVE clips should be aired on public TV many more times
5. The HORN Institute and BRAVE to initiate a dialogue that would contribute in addressing issues of historical injustices as one of the factors that lead to radicalization.

## OCTOBER

### CSCR Board Meeting

CSCR/BRAVE held its Board meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the CSCR offices. The board meetings are usually held quarterly in a year. Members present for the meeting included:

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by Dr. Mustafa Ali. It began by reviewing the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The Agenda of the Meeting was; Remarks from the chairman, Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Matters arising, CSCR programmes, financial report and AOB.

In the meeting the CSCR Program manager shared with the board members all the CSCR/BRAVE activities from March 2017. He also presented the financial report and the work plan including activities that will be implemented by BRAVE and are to start soon.

### Consultative Meeting on Current Political Situation in Kenya

#### INTRODUCTION

In a historic ruling, and the first in Africa, Kenya's Supreme Court annulled the re-election of President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, an incumbent, ordering a repeat election within 60 days. The court cited 'illegalities and irregularities' and thus the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) failed "to conduct the presidential election in a manner consistent with the dictates of the constitution." The decision indubitably reignited fears that the country could descend into violence.

Against this backdrop, a consultative meeting was organized by Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism (BRAVE) and led by Muslim professionals on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at CSCR offices. The basis of the consultative meeting was to find ways of integrating the voice of Muslim professionals in assuaging political situation in the country and challenges facing the community as a whole. A completely participatory approach was adopted at the meeting where all participants interacted freely and voiced their opinions.

#### Presentations from Muslim Professionals

Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, the BRAVE Convenor, inaugurated the consultation by welcoming the members present. He clarified the purpose of the meeting underscoring the significance of Muslims' contribution to the current political impasse. As neutral party in this elections, they needed to be strategic and structured in the challenges affecting Kenyans.

Sh. Ramadhan Aula made a presentation highlighting the import of the meeting in the face of increasing political improbability. He stated that Muslims are part and parcel of the community and they too will be affected if the situation of 2007 is repeated. He focused on the current political dynamics in Kenya such as illegalities and irregularities cited by the Supreme Court in the annulled results of the general elections held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017, amendments of the electoral laws for the repeat presidential election, Hon. Raila's withdrawal as a presidential candidate in

the said election, proscription of demos and deadly protests agitating for reforms in IEBC. The question posed was “What is the Role of Muslims?”

**Sh. Ibrahim Lethome**, Chairman BRAVE Reference committee, in his presentation on legal implication on the current political crisis reiterated that as citizens of the republic of Kenya we have a moral duty in matters concerning the country. He felt that Muslims are being left behind as clerics of other faiths have already made their positions clear. There was consequently, need to mobilize Muslim professionals to brainstorm, understand and come up with a way forward. He explained, a lawyer, that there will be no legal crisis if election was not held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017 saying that the Constitution is clear that the incumbent president will remain in office until the new president is sworn in.



*Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali Making a Point*

Members acknowledged the fact that there was a crisis and time was of essence since the situation was deteriorating by day. It was mentioned that Muslim leaders were in a disadvantaged position, because they lacked proper structures to mainstream the voice of Muslim professionals. And thus, they needed to find solutions and a way forward by putting facts on ground as they also needed to reorganize their “house” as religious community.

It was also stated in Law of life, “you either get it or you

don’t” and the strategy was getting it. It was reiterated that leadership was dynamic and temporal, but it is vital that role the Muslim professionals become clear and valuable. It was noted that such consultative meetings were critical and should be made frequent to address various issues that may arise. The country is polarized and it needed dialogue more than grandstanding.

It was observed that Muslim leaders have taken sides and lost moral authority to intervene hence it was necessary for Muslim professionals to converge. It was added that there is need to formalize the forum to give it legitimacy.

The concrete proposals are outlined in action points below:

- 1) How can dialogue to solve the current political crisis be achieved? The need to come up with an urgent measure for intervention
- 2) Solution needed is political since it is a political problem
- 3) Convene Muslim professionals more frequently and formally

## WAY FORWARD

- 1) The Muslim professionals should act as a technical body to provide technical solutions
- 2) A strong statement urging President Uhuru Kenyatta and Hon. Raila Odinga to dialogue and come up with an amicable solution. The statement should also address IEBC to uphold the law in the repeat presidential election on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017
- 3) Invite the presidential candidates for a meeting
- 4) Mobilize more Muslim professionals and clerics to add their voices
- 5) Mobilize all Muslims to play a role in the communities as peace makers e.g. Imams, Sheikhs, youth
- 6) Mr. Swaleh Kanyeki to provide names of the Muslim professionals

### Review of The Press Statement On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017

The press statement that was supposed to take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 did not mature because of unavailability of the media personnel for coverage. In its place, the members present opted to discuss in detail the press statement and suggest the most appropriate day to give the press statement. Subsequently, they settled on the name Kenya Muslim Professional Forum.

In the meeting, members fine-tuned the press statement; moving and replacing material to make it coherent and as impartial as possible. Members discussed and agreed that the press statement will be read to the media on October 21<sup>st</sup> 2017 at *Jamia Mosque Multipurpose Hall* by Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali.

### Press Statement On 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017

On October 21<sup>st</sup> 2017, some members of the Muslim professionals gathered at *Jamia Mosque Multipurpose Hall* at 10.00am as agreed in the previous meeting.



*Dr. Mustafa Y Ali and other professionals addressing the media at Jamia Mosque on October 21st 2017*

During this time, the media who had been mobilized from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> were setting up their equipment ready for the press conference. NTV and KTN broadcasted the message during lunch hour news. The following are the links to the news item:

The press statement was read out by Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali who also fielded questions from journalists. The press statement, in a nutshell, brought to the fore the political challenges facing Kenya at the moment and the need to address them urgently before they “escalate into an immutable crisis.” Specifically, the group appealed to President Uhuru and Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga to take “positive steps that ensure Kenya does not slip down the path of anarchy.”

The Forum appealed to President Uhuru to take measures including dialogue in an effort to address the current challenges. They also appealed to the former Prime Minister Raila Odinga “to focus on peaceful methods and tools to address the current grievances.”

The Forum also appealed to political leaders “to soften political rhetoric that is otherwise damaging to the Kenyan social fabric.” The IEBC should also be aware of their increasingly crucial role in this electoral process and the need to conduct free, fair and credible elections. They finally appealed to Kenyans to maintain peace.

Mohamed from Islamia TV (ITV) sought to understand why it had taken long for the professionals to give their views vis a vis the political situation in the country. Dr. Mustafa responded by asserting that there have been discussions in boardrooms and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> was conceivably the best day to give the press statement.



NOVEMBER

## IGAD Workshop in Djibouti



**CSCR**  
CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE CONFLICT RESOLUTION



CSCR was invited to a workshop on amplifying the voices of Young African Leaders in the fight against radicalization and violent extremism. The workshop was organized by IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 at the Chamber of Commerce in Djibouti.

The IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) engaged the YALI alumnae as partners for peace by finding new ways to amplify their voices and partner with local governments, CSOs, and Community Leaders.

CSCR experts facilitated several sessions during the workshop. The sessions included; Development of counter messaging and the use of the media, Detecting and Forecasting Violent Extremism Acts; How to predict, recognize and counter extremist tendencies and Pathways out of Violent - Extremism; Individual Disengagement and Collective Disengagement.

The experts also guided the audience during group work on development of messengers to be used on both mainstream and social media and moderated other sessions during the training.

Participants were invited from the IGAD region five from Tanzania, four from Kenya, four from Uganda, eight from Somalia, one from Ethiopia, and six from Djibouti.



*Sh. Ibrahim Lethome (left) and Dr. Othman Mujahid (right) during their presentations*



The 2017 Regional Youth Forum was organized by Arigatou International – Nairobi from 14<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in Sagana, Kenya. The Theme Youth Forum was *Youth in Action: Building Positive Inter and Intra-group Relations*. Youth leaders were invited from Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and Tanzania.

The objective of the forum was to realize peaceful coexistence among communities and social groups in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region and to catalyze youth from various faith communities to take leadership action towards building peace – characterized by harmonious, just and resilient communities, and sustainable development.

The forum consisted of four complimentary parts:

- ❖ Transformative Leadership Training, facilitated in collaboration with the Africa Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership (ACTIL)
- ❖ Workshop Sessions with a focus on specific Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)
- ❖ High-level roundtable and dialogue session with various stakeholders
- ❖ Youth-led sessions to share experiences, knowledge, tools and skills

CSCR experts were invited to facilitate/co-facilitate sessions on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation in Peacebuilding and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE), Faith-Based Narratives to P/CVE; Overview of faith-based narratives on violence and their counter narratives and early warning and early responses to P/CVE.

### **Day of Prayer and Action for Children Held On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Molem Primary School**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Day of Prayer and Action for Children event was held in Kenya as a commemoration of this important day celebrated around the world. In the spirit of GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum held in Panama City, Panama, between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017, the GNRC members Kenya aimed at promoting the end of violence against children. This is also in conformity with the ten commitments agreed upon in the fifth forum especially the commitment no. 1 and no. 7. This also fulfils this year's three subthemes Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence, and Organized Crime; Nurturing Spirituality And Ending Violence In Child Upbringing; Ending Sexual Exploitation And Abuse Of Children. The Day of Prayer and Action (DPAC) is one of the Arigatou International initiatives is commemorated to promote the wellbeing of the children as its moto goes 'All for Children'.

The event was organized by CSCR in collaboration with GNRC members in Kenya mobilized by the GNRC-Kenya office. The aim is to raise community awareness on the rights of the children and the need to create an environment free of violence for children. Other objectives were:

- To commemorate the Day of Prayer and Action and raise awareness about it in the community and especially those who handle children
- To raise awareness on the rights of the children in the community
- Imparting life skills to the children and ensure children are aware when their rights are infringed and where to channel their grievances

The Day of Prayer and Action (DPAC) which was celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 instead of usual 20<sup>th</sup> November due to availability of many participants. The venue was Molem Superloaf Primary School, a place near the two homes.

### Prayer

The Day of Prayer and Action for Children began with interfaith prayers from Sheikh Bakari Juma and another prayer from Beryl a member of Christian faith community. They prayed for the occasion and children in the country.



*Sh Bakari (left) and Beryl (right) leading others in a word of prayer after the event*

This was followed by introduction of those present who also gave a brief of what they do for the benefit of children. The organizations represented some deal rescue of children of abused children, others develop and nurture talent of less fortunate children in the slum areas while others provide psycho social and para legal support to the children.

### Presentations

#### 1. Introduction of homes by Sh. Bakari

Sheikh Bakari the manager of Good Hope Markazil Banatil Islamiya, gave a brief history of the home. Himself being raised in children home, he is passionate about children and started a few girls, where he felt they were very vulnerable. He saw the need of taking both boys and girls

when went rescue children who had lost their mother who was a destitute and found there were boys and girls and had to take them. The home has now 75 children of different ages, the youngest in pre-school and the oldest in university. The other home that invited by Good Hope, from the same neighbourhood was Villadeac children's homes has forty children in total, 33 girls and 7 boys.

## **2. Introduction of the Day of Prayer and Action for Children (DPAC) by Sh. Ramadhan Aula**

Sheikh Ramadhan Aula the GNRC-Kenya Coordinator started by informing participants that the event is funded by Arigatou International, New York office. He then proceeded to introduce GNRC, what they do around the world, their objectives and went ahead to explain the Day of



Prayer and Action for Children, when the concept started and why it's important to protect children worldwide and honour them.

*Sh Ramadhan Aula making a presentation*

## **3. Introduction of Arigatou International and Its initiatives by Abdurahman Marjan**

Mr. Abdurahman Marjan of Arigatou International Nairobi on reiterated that Stop Violence against Children as the global theme of all activities worldwide. In his presentation he gave examples of some of the violence meted on children and highlighted the importance of safeguarding children as they are the future and how they are treated today determines who they become tomorrow. He also talked about the various GNRC initiatives.

## **4. Rights and Responsibilities of children by Ms. Zam Obed**

Ms Zam Obed a member of GNRC Nairobi from Child Life Kenya gave a talk on the rights and responsibilities of children. She taught the children what some of their rights are and the responsibilities that come with them. She encouraged them to speak up when they are violated and mistreated and reach out for help from available Centers.



*Ms Zam Obed talking to the children*

## **5. The reality of HIV/AIDS and its effect on children by Ms. Fatuma**

Ms. Fatuma talked to the children about the reality of HIV/AIDS. She urged the children to take care of

themselves, to love each other and not to allow themselves to be mistreated by people. She pleaded with the girl child and discouraged them from early marriages and encouraged them to study well and create a better future for themselves.

### Entertainment

There were several entertainment sessions during the activity. Cry of the Child entertainment group engaged the children in several activities including dances, singing games and modeling. There were also some children led interactive sessions in which all the children participated.



*Team from the Cry of the Young One entertaining the Children*



*Children enjoying themselves at the event*



*Team from the Cry of the Young One entertaining the Children*



*A GNRC Member teaching the children a singing game*

### Special Prayers

Sh Bakari the founder of the home and Beryl from Cry of the Young One led the participants in special prayers for children. They prayed for Children in the country and around the globe.

### Vote of Thanks and Closing Remarks

Sheikh Bakari thanked CSCR and GNRC Kenya to consider holding this event in the home. He thanked all GNRC-Kenya members for attending this function and made it a success. He also expressed gratitude on gifts brought to them.

Sh. Ramadhan thanked Arigatou International for the financial contribution towards the event. He also thanked CSCR for its contribution towards complementing the efforts of everyone. He thanked the staff who were involved in preparation this event which turned to be a success. He also thanked GNRC members and members of staff who contributed clothes and other artifacts for the home.



*Sh Ramadhan Aula giving the donations to the director of the home*



HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies in partnership with CSCR through the BRAVE program organized a training of trainers (ToT) for Muslim women to address radicalization into violent extremism, disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Maanzoni lodge in Athi River.

## **DAY 1**

**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

### **Introduction**

The workshop began with a prayer from Dr Mujahid Othman, a consultant with BRAVE, who then opened the floor to participants' introductions. The participants were invited from Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Isiolo, Nairobi, Nyeri and Lamu counties. After the introduction, Mariam Kibunja the lead facilitator, invited Sh. Ramadhan Aula, BRAVE Program Manager to give the objectives of the workshop.

Sh. Ramadhan Aula took participants through the objectives and expected outcomes of the training workshop that they are to:

- Build capacity for women in preventing and countering radicalization and violent extremism
- Establish a pool of women experts who will deal with women colleagues in preventing and countering radicalization and violent extremism
- Establish a team of women ToTs to train vulnerable and affected women by radicalization into violent extremism and build their resilience
- Build a team that will be able to identify and analyze radicalization issues and provide solutions





*Sh. Ramadhan Aula taking the participants through the objectives of the training*

Sh. Aula stressed that violent extremism is one of the main issues affecting the Muslim Community and the world at large; and women leaders along with other stakeholders are the best-placed position to deal with this menace.

The programme manager added that the training was expected to produce a team of Muslim women and community leaders who have information and basic counselling skills to address radicalization into violent extremism, rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees.

### **Welcome Remarks**

Mariam Kibunja highlighted that BRAVE believes in the ability of Muslim women in countering radicalization and violent extremism. She said that women are capable of stamping out this menace if they understand their roles in countering violent extremism.

### **Presentations**

#### **1. Introduction to Radicalization, Extremism, Violent Extremism and Terrorism by Dr. Mustafa Ali**

Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali welcomed the women and thanked them for making time to participate in the training. He gave a brief background of the ToT and explained why the training was necessary to be conducted at this time. He talked about the importance of reintegrating and rehabilitating returnees and went ahead to explain some of the expected outcomes of the training. He introduced the terms Radicalization, Extremism, Violent Extremism and the various types of

terrorism. He also talked about violent extremism among Muslim youth and the role of women in Countering Violent Extremism.



*Dr Mustafa Ali listening to a participant's contribution during his presentation*

## 2. Drivers of Radicalization into Violent Extremism by Sh Ibrahim Lethome

Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome explicated push and pull factor for radicalization into violent extremism. He explained the various narratives used by violent extremist organizations to recruit youth into the groups and the counter narratives. . In his presentation, Sh. Lethome explained the need for partnerships in the war against Violent Extremism since the driving factors are not specific to one challenge and therefore cannot be addressed by one group. He urged the Muslim women to get involved and understand their roles in the fight against Violent Extremism and Radicalization.



*Sh Ibrahim Lethome engaging the participants in a discussion*

## Plenary Session

The participants made their contributions as follows:

- a. Political Extremism is an issue in the country that needs to be addressed
- b. Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance and that people should co-exist well
- c. The training was very timely since most of them are involved in local CVE projects and felt that they needed skills and information to help them in their work.
- d. Poverty, dysfunctional families, misinterpretation of religious texts were discussed as some of the drivers of radicalization into violent extremism.

## 3. Early Warning Against Violent Extremist (E-WARVE) by Dr Othman Mujahid

The presentation described the process of radicalization into violent extremist actions/ ideologies. It also demonstrated the techniques of countering it. Dr. Mujahid also educated the members on guidance and counselling methods. He presented the ABC Olympic Model of De-radicalization.

He educated the women on the signs to look out for in someone who is in the process of being radicalized. He urged the women to become closer and give attention and guidance to the children as a way of preventing radicalization into violent extremism.

#### 4. Prevention Strategies into Violent Extremism; Perspectives of Muslim Women and Organizing a Training Programme by Dr Othman Mujahid

In this session, Dr Mujahid allowed the participants to share their perspectives and views on violent extremism and how to prevent it. The floor was open to discussion and any participant who wished to share their opinion was given time. He later took the participants through the various methods of de-radicalization.

This session was followed by organizing a training programme. He asked the participants to form groups and gave them a task on developing a sample training programme. After the participants were done with the task, they made presentations on their group work. Dr Mujahid then taught them on how to develop training programme and took them through training skills.



*Dr Mujahid taking participants through the Session*



*Participants in a group discussion*

## Plenary Session

During this session, participants explained the following:

- The participants shared their experiences of countering violent extremism and the challenges they face. One participant who runs an advocacy project for women and girls in Mombasa County shared with the group what she does, how many returnees she has reached out to, the processes involved, her successes and challenges of doing CVE work.
- Another participant shared how some madrassa teachers were recruiting youth to join violent extremist groups.
- They discussed in detail some of the early warning signs of radicalization in people, the narratives they use how to prevent the youth and children from being victims.
- They noted dysfunctional families as a contributing factor to radicalization and VE and discussed the importance of stable families on the mental health of children.
- They reviewed the various steps to consider when developing a training programme and the characteristics of a good trainer.



*Participants engaging in discussions during the plenary session*

## **DAY 2**

**Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Day two began with a recap conducted by Dr. Othman Mujahid. Participants commented on what they had learnt the previous day. He engaged the participants in some games and fun activities and allowed them to quickly share a few things that stood out for them from the previous days presentations.

### **Presentations**

#### **1. Facilitation Techniques by Dr Othman Mujahid**

Dr Mujahid started his presentation by going through the training programme. What to consider in the programme, developing and designing a good programme and the importance of carrying out a needs assessment before training. He then discussed how to facilitate a training, the different techniques used in facilitation and the principles of adult learning. He taught the participants on the attributes of a good trainer, and the do's and don'ts of training.

He also taught the participants on the importance of adding value in facilitation. Making each training unique and that the trainer should not only train but make an impact on his/her audience. He urged trainers to always seek more knowledge and be up to date with emerging trends. He highlighted the importance of creativity in training.

### Plenary Session

- The participants in groups of five discussed different methods they would use in training
- They presented their group work and received feedback and comments from other groups.
- They were then taken through the general principles of adult learning and how to use those principals while training adults.



*Participants presenting their group work to others*

## 2. Basic Counselling Skills by Maryam Kibunja

Maryam Kibunja the lead facilitator took the members through basic counselling skills. She highlighted the characteristics of a good/professional counsellor. She also explained some of the theories of basic counselling and how to conduct a session. She took the participants through the counselling process, what is expected of a counsellor and things to avoid in a counselling session.

During the presentation, the participants were grouped in pairs and asked to have a practical counselling session and after the Practicals, the groups discussed the counselor and client. The professional capacity of the counselor and how to handle different issues among clients.

They were also taught how to conduct a basic session for a returnee, building rapport with him/her and winning their trust.



*Maryam Kibunja making a presentation*

## **DAY 3**

**Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Day three began with a recap conducted by Ustadha Batuli. Participants commented on what they had learnt the previous day.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **1. CVE Trauma Counselling Skills and Personal Experiences in CVE by Maryam Kibunja**

Maryam Kibunja began the presentation by going through the previous day's basic counselling skills presentation. She defined trauma, the causes of trauma and the explained the correlation between CVE and psychological trauma. She taught the participants on some of the mental illnesses that the returnees most likely suffer from and how to conduct counselling and therapy for them.

She also encouraged the counselors themselves to seek professional help when necessary, go for supervision to offload and that a therapist can always refer the client. After the presentation some participants shared their personal experiences in CVE, what it has been like for them and how they would improve their approaches after this training.



## 2. CVE Spiritual Counselling by Ustadha Batuli Nassir

Ustadha Batuli Nassir, introduced spiritual counselling to the participants. She made a presentation on CVE spiritual counselling. The context of spiritual counselling, who needs spiritual counselling and the effectiveness of spiritual counselling. She highlighted the importance of understanding Islam as a religion, proper interpretation of religious texts for effective CVE Spiritual counselling.



*Ustadha Batuli Making a presentation on spiritual counselling*

### Closing Remarks

The training ended with words of prayer from Ustadha Batuli. Participants acknowledged that they had really learnt a lot and that they feel more informed than before. They pledged to take action and contribute to the fight against radicalization and violent extremism.

After all the contributions, participants were awarded with certificates for taking time to be trained on CVE issues.

Maryam Kibunja gave the vote of thanks.



*Dr. Raya Suleiman receiving a certificate from HORN Director Dr H Khannenje*

## Way Forward

The agreed way forward are as follows:

- a. CSCR/BRAVE to Conduct follow up forums for more discussions by BRAVE Women on CVE work.
- b. Share information learnt widely with members of community and others.
- c. Work closely with the government security agencies on CVE issues.
- d. Research more on context of jihad and learn more about Islam so as to effectively counter the narratives by violent extremist groups.
- e. Refer marginalization and exclusion of youth to the relevant authorities.
- f. Guide the youth by addressing effects of violent extremism and talk to the ones showing early warning signs.
- g. Give more days for effective training on BRAVE's Manual and understanding of the content.
- h. Communication through social media should be encouraged among the BRAVE for example; BRAVE's Facebook page



## Madrasa Teachers' Stakeholders Meeting



### Introduction

Violence on children in *madrassas* has lately been a concern owing to the scale of violence and the impact on these children. Madrasa going children in Kenya and elsewhere are subjected to violence in those religious institutions all in the name of teaching them religion and inculcating religious discipline in them. Keeping quiet to these atrocities meted on children would be a disservice to the children and humanity. In the spirit of GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum held in Panama City, Panama, between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017, the GNRC members Kenya held this forum. This is in conformity with the ten commitments agreed upon in the fifth forum especially the commitment no 2 Ensure that our religious places are safe for all children, and especially for the victims of violence and abuse, and vulnerable children such as those with disabilities; and the main theme of the Forum *Ending Violence against Children*. To address the above concern, the Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution, a GNRC member Kenya, organized a consultative

meeting with stakeholders in madrasa education including educationists, psychologists, lawyers, sheikhs and social organization to discuss the issue and deliberate on the way forward.

Among the areas discussed were violence against children in Madrasas in the teaching them their religion and inculcating discipline, child psychology in education, effects of corporal punishment in education, children in the legal instruments of Kenya and the education Act. Corporal punishment is illegal in Kenya but the madrassas has continued with it unabated.

Sh. Ibrahim Lethome the lead Facilitator welcomed everyone and thanked them for making time to attend the meeting. After the introductions were made, Sh Lethome invited Dr. Mustafa Ali Director Arigatou International, Nairobi to take over and give his opening remarks and an overview of the problem.

## Presentations

### 1. An overview of the programme by Dr. Mustafa Ali

Dr. Mustafa Ali, introduced Arigatou International. He talked about who they are and the various initiatives of the organization towards building a better world for children. He briefly talked about the fifth GNRC forum held in Panama City, Panama, early this year and the commitments arrived at in the forum. He explained the Panama Declaration on ending violence against children serves as an impetus of the idea of ending violence against children in Madrassas.

He hoped that by the end of the consultations they would have come up with recommendations and jointly they will address the problem. Dr. Mustafa then welcomed Mr. Munawar Khan, a curriculum expert, to make his contributions.



*Dr. Mustafa Ali introduced Arigatou International and gave an overview of the programme*



*Sh. Munawar Khan (Center) talking about the relevance of Madrasa curriculum and the subject under discussion*

### The Importance of the *Madrasa* Curriculum by Munawar Khan

Munawar Khan, an educationist from the Muslim Education Council, talked about the relevance of the madrasa curriculum and the subject under the discussion. He mentioned that in his work, he encourages and promotes changes in the *madrasa* system for it to be more effective and protect

children from seemingly sanctioned violence. He talked about lack of qualified Madrassa teachers as a great challenge and introduced the new Madrassa curriculum developed by Muslim Educational Council explaining how it will contribute to solving the problem through training and guidance of the madrassa teachers. He mentioned that the new curriculum which was developed in 2014 and once approved by the Ministry of Education, will be implemented across all madrassas in the country soon.

### **Background of the project by Sh. Ibrahim Lethome**

Sh. Ibrahim Lethome gave the background of the project. He mentioned that it was inspired by the GNRC Fifth Forum, where violence within the religious institutions was discussed. Sh. Lethome came up with the idea of ending violence against children in madrassas in his own home Country and shared his facts with other like-minded people that led to this event.

He explained why it is important to address the issue of violence in madrassas and the importance of protecting children from any physical and mental torture.



*Sh. Ibrahim Lethome giving the background of the project*

### **Plenary session**

In his contribution during the plenary session, Sh. Abdullatif gave various case studies on the issue of caning of children as alleged to be the ways of imparting knowledge. He said that many people who have been subjected to hitting or other forms of physical violence as disciplinary practices are reported to have developed problems related to fear and anger. He added that the problem needed to be looked at from a different perspective.

Dr. Ahmed Yusuf mentioned that canes are instruments of torture that need to be eliminated. There must alternative ways of disciplining a child. He also said the issue of a *madrassa* curriculum is important which needs to be enforced by the Government of Kenya. He stated that madrassa teachers should be well trained and follow up on madrassa infrastructure to ensure children are exposed to a good learning environment.

### **2. Situational analysis by Sh. Ramadhan Aula**

In this session, Sh. Ramadhan Aula, the Director CSCR, presented on the following issues: background and education system of the early learned Muslims, Muslim institutions such as

MIOME inaugurated in 1951, he mentioned that there is lack of statistics that covered the number of *madrassa* teachers, and *madrassa* going children. He also posed a question on who to blame for an abated continuation of corporal punishment and challenges faced by the community and the *madrassa* teachers.

Some of the challenges he mentioned were;

- Children being sent to *madrassas* because parents wanted to remove noise from homes.
- *Madrassas* being secondary options to parents.
- Frustrated *madrassa* teachers from neglect
- Parents not paying *madrassa* fees

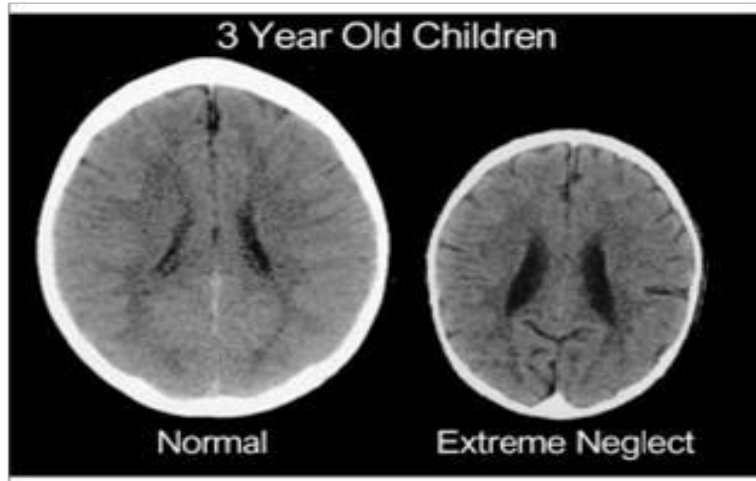


*Sh. Ramadhan Aula explaining the complex challenges *madrassa* teachers face*

### **Child psychology in education by Madam Riziki Ahmed**

Madam Riziki Ahmed a psychologist by profession, gave a presentation on child psychology in education. She covered the psychosocial stages of development. She explained that if a child successfully negotiated the eight stages of psychosocial development he/she becomes a fully functioning adult. Her presentation focused greatly on effective child development. It explained the mind and behavior of children from prenatal development through adolescence. The ultimate goal here was to make everyone understand the many influences that combine and interact to help mold children.

She ended with an illustration of brain change due to abuse.



After her presentation members agreed it was best that madrassa teachers are trained on child psychology to help them understand the effects of corporal punishment on children.

### **3. Effects of corporal punishment in education by Ustadha Batuli**

Ustadha Batuli Suleiman, the principal of Darul Arqam, a madrasa in Kileleshwa gave a presentation on the effects of corporal punishment in the educational context. Corporal punishment places parents in positions where they may have to choose between education advancement and children's wellbeing. Parents whose children are victims of violence in madrassas, find it difficult to seek legal advice or abandon the practice. This makes them withdraw their children from madrassas altogether since they see it as the only viable solution where more vulnerable and susceptible to manipulation by the violent extremist groups.

### **4. Children in the constitution of Kenya and the education act by Swaleh Kanyeki**

Swaleh Kanyeki a Lawyer by Profession gave a presentation on children in the constitution of Kenya and the Education Act. He looked at Constitution of Kenya, Treaties, Conventions, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child, UN Convention on the rights of the child and the Children Act 2001(cap 141). The education act made recommendations on punishment other than corporal punishment. Children's act was defined and physical injury was mentioned as part of child abuse. It also highlighted that children were entitled to protection from physical abuse and no child should be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or punishment. A person who infringes the rights of children shall be liable upon summary conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 12 months or a fine not exceeding sh. 50,000 or both.



*Swaleh Kanyeki giving his presentation on Children in the Constitution of Kenya and the Education Act*

## Plenary session

Musa Mwale from the Family Resource Centre gave examples of majority of the children who were mistreated, punished severely in the name of imparting knowledge that occurred in Eastleigh. The use of corporal punishment was the order of the day and something madrasa teachers got away with since some of the parents saw it as a normal practice. So there is need to create awareness to the parents as it is important to create awareness to the madrasa teachers.

## Recommendations

In order to prevent violence against children in madrassas, participants recommended the following;

- Carry out a survey to understand the level of violence in madrassas, know the number of children that go to madrassas and the number of madrasa teachers available
- Madrasa teachers should be trained on pedagogical skills, child psychology, legal instruments safeguarding the children and how to use the madrasa curriculum
- Develop training a comprehensive manual for madrasa teachers
- Ensure that the completed madrasa curriculum is implemented
- Network with other institutions in terms of training madrasa teachers.
- Carry out awareness of parents on the harm of corporal punishment on children
- A committee of seven people was formed to plan for the implementation of these resolutions

|    | NAME                | ORGANIZATION              |
|----|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Sh. Ibrahim Lethome | BRAVE Reference Committee |
| 2. | Munawar Khan        | Muslim Education Council  |
| 3. | Musa Mwale          | KCIU                      |
| 4. | Riziki Ahmed        | Hidaya Timeless           |



|    |                 |             |
|----|-----------------|-------------|
| 5. | Maryam Sheikh   | NEPA        |
| 6. | Ali Mwinyi      | Lecturer    |
| 7. | Batuli Suleiman | Darul-Arqam |

In conclusion, violence against children is unacceptable. It harms children physically and psychologically. The use of corporal punishment in madrassas interferes with their rights and education. Prohibiting it will help ensure that the children are able to achieve their full education potential in supportive learning environment.

1. Mainstream Media



Dr. Mustafa Ali was interviewed by CGTN, a Chinese Television Station, on radicalization and violent extremism. The interview was held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at their studios.

Dr. Mustafa Ali has also appeared on NTV, breakfast show, Standing on Guard, to represent BRAVE in discussing security situation with regard the threat of violent extremism in Kenya. This a weekly programme where Dr. Mustafa represented BRAVE in all four weeks. He also took in interview along with Sh. Ramadhan Aula and Sh. Ibrahim Lethome with the Media Capital on a documentary they were making.





BRAVE was also invited to talk to the youth Ghetto Radio. Sh. Ramadhan Aula represented BRAVE to discuss radicalization of youth. Ghetto Radio is a youth oriented station using Sheng, a language used by the youth in Nairobi and other parts of the country.

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*Sh. Ramadhan Aula talking to youth on Ghetto Radio*



## 2. Social Media

### a) WhatsApp

There was a lot of conversation and activity going on in the BRAVE WhatsApp groups. BRAVE has a total of ten WhatsApp groups that are frequently updated on activities that are going on and they also receive info graphs thrice weekly and pictures of BRAVE'S recent activities. Members of the groups engage each other in meaningful discussions and share information that is helpful in the fight against radicalization and violent extremism. The WhatsApp groups include members of BRAVE national committees, regional committees, BRAVE women and youth.

The ten WhatsApp Groups include:

- ❖ BRAVE Steering Committee
- ❖ BRAVE Ustadhas
- ❖ BRAVE West Kenya
- ❖ BRAVE Kilifi County
- ❖ BRAVE Upper Eastern
- ❖ BRAVE Nairobi ToT
- ❖ BRAVE Lamu
- ❖ BRAVE CIPK Group
- ❖ Imams and Duat Network
- ❖ Pumwani Peace Monitors

During this time, the media who had been mobilized from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> were setting up their equipment ready for the press conference. NTV and KTN broadcasted the message during lunch hour news. The following are the links to the news item:

### b) Facebook

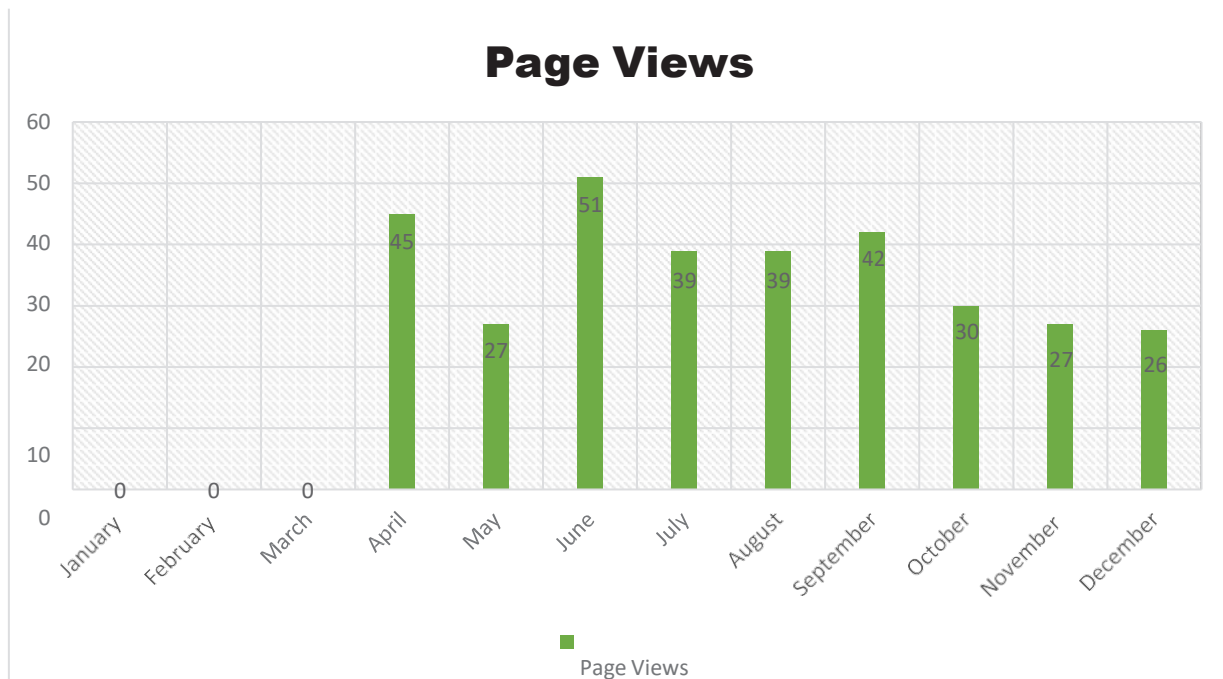
#### Page Views

Page Views refer to the total number of people who viewed the BRAVE profile. In this case, the period under scrutiny is January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 to December 21<sup>st</sup> 2017. Figure 1 shows the total page views during this period. It is important to note that Facebook did not have data for January, February and March. The page views rose sharply and then declined slightly in tandem with the activities of the organization. BRAVE was busy from April through to November because of the following activities:

- Lenga Ugaidi na talanta
- GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum
- BRAVE women training of trainers (TOT) on basic counselling skills
- The East Africa Civil Society Organizations Hub workshop in Djibouti
- Nigerian Muslim scholars and professionals the counter narrative developed in the Horn of Africa
- Young African Leaders in the fight against radicalization and violent extremism organized by IGAD

- The regional youth forum themed, ‘Youth in Action: Building Positive Inter and Intra-group Relations peaceful coexistence among communities and social groups in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa region
- Muslim professionals meeting in October 2017 to deliberate on the political crisis facing the country at the time
- Day of Prayer and Action for Children held in Kariobangi
- Community Dialogue in collaboration with NCTC and UNDP
- Seminar on Familiarization of the complexities of violent extremism and radicalization in Kenya
- MPDVE research
- TBI Courtesy call
- Collaboration with Dr. Halkano Wario
- CSCR’s Board meeting
- Media activities

Figure 1 Page Views From January 1st, 2017 to December 21st 2017



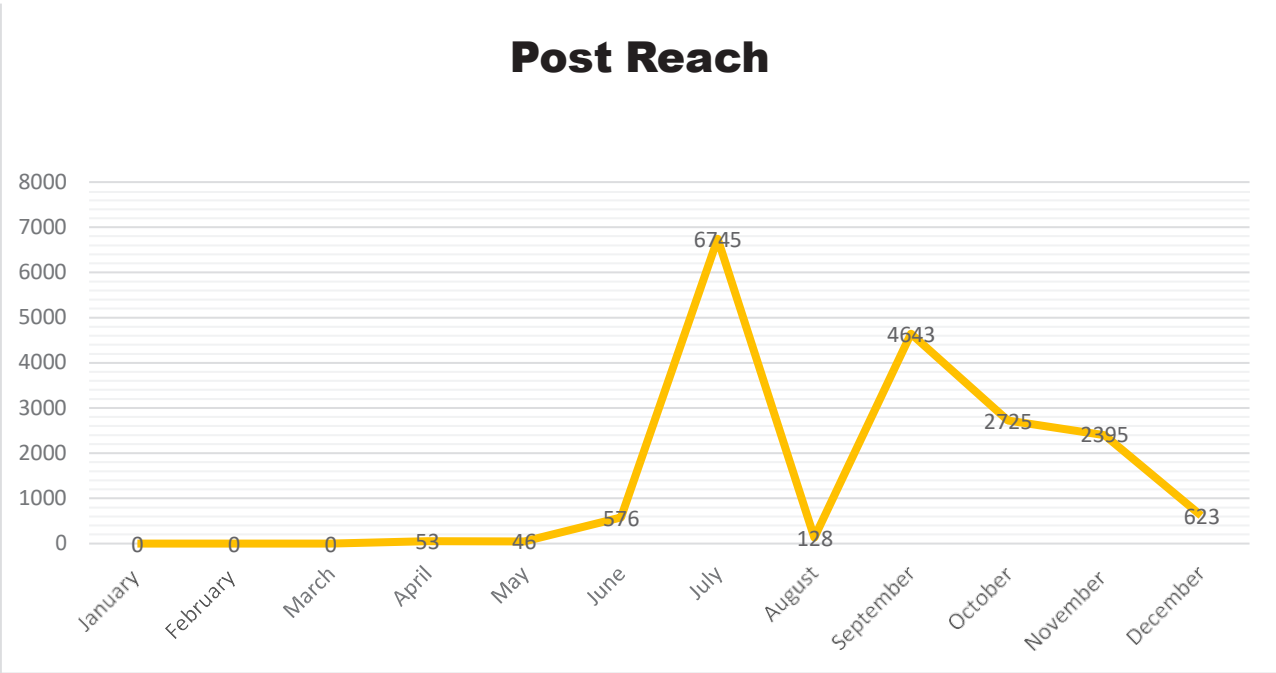
### Post Reach

Post Reach refers to the number of people who were served any activity from BRAVE Page, including BRAVE posts, posts to BRAVE Page by other people, Page like ads, mentions and check-ins. In July, September, October and November, you posted *Lenga Ugaidi* videos and other posts (see Figure 2 below). Most people viewed these posts hence the surge in the number of people reached.

| Month     | Page Views |
|-----------|------------|
| January   | 0          |
| February  | 0          |
| March     | 0          |
| April     | 53         |
| May       | 46         |
| June      | 576        |
| July      | 6745       |
| August    | 128        |
| September | 4643       |
| October   | 2725       |
| November  | 2395       |
| December  | 623        |

In July we posted *Lenga Ugaidi na Talanta* videos used in the completion by youth. These attracted huge traffic in the our social media platforms. On Facebook, the activity attracted 6,745 users.

Figure 2 Post Reach



**TOTAL NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017, BRAVE Facebook followers stood at 14,080. However, by 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the number had declined to 14,029.

| Period  | Followers |
|---------|-----------|
| January | 14,080    |

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| December | 14,029 |
|----------|--------|

Most of our viewers are youth and they were attracted mostly with videos. Less video posting may have caused the decline of following in the month of December 2017.

### **Total Likes**

The total number of Likes for all the posts on BRAVE Facebook between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 is 14,075. This is a modest number vis a vis the number of posts (mainly videos during *Lenga Ugaidi* event) by BRAVE.

### **TOTAL NUMBER OF VIDEOS POSTED**

BRAVE posted 7 videos between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017. Please find some of the videos posted during the period under scrutiny

1. Terrorism is not Jihad
2. A section of Muslim professionals mobilised by Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR) and Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism (BRAVE) on Saturday urged the political leadership to solve the current political crisis amicably. Specifically, they urged President Uhuru Kenyatta and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga to take positive steps that ensure Kenya does not slip down the path of anarchy. Here is the full press statement at Jamia Mosque on 21st October 2017 #kenyaMuslimProfessionalsForum #NewsCentre
3. Killing innocent people is the biggest sin in Islam
4. Terrorism is not Jihad! Terrorism is not Jihad!
5. Youth fighting religious radicalization in their own language through short film in BRAVE programme in conjunction with its partners.

### **Total Video Views**

The videos posted were viewed by 2,500 times from the time they were posted and 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017. All activities in Facebook page were organic

